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ORIGIN OFFICE (M-03)

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INFO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY

SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM

UNCLAS STATE 183105

BEIJING PASS CHENGDU

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, CH

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BAKER'S 6/8 COMMENTS ON CHINA

1. IN HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB  
6/8, SECRETARY BAKER MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON  
CHINA:

2. QUESTION: WHAT IS OUR VIEW OF ETHNIC DISTURBANCES  
IN THE SOVIET UNION?

SECRETARY BAKER: WELL, I THINK THOSE ARE RATHER  
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS FOR THE LEADERSHIP. THEY HAVE  
SUGGESTED AS MUCH, RECOGNIZED THEM AS SUCH. OUR VIEW,  
OF COURSE, IS THAT WE STAND FOR FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, THE  
RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH, THE RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY. I THINK  
THAT PRETTY WELL ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION.

WE'D LIKE TO SEE REFORM GO FORWARD IN THE SOVIET UNION.  
WE TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT, TO SOME EXTENT, THE  
POLITICAL REFORM PROCESS IN THE SOVIET UNION MAY BE A  
BIT AHEAD OF THE ECONOMIC REFORM PROCESS. THEY HAVE GOT  
SOME MAJOR, MAJOR STEPS TO TAKE TO FIND THEIR WAY TO A  
MARKET ECONOMY.

I THINK THAT PERHAPS WE'VE SEEN SOMEWHAT THE REVERSE IN  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WHERE THE ECONOMIC  
REFORMS GOT PUT IN FRONT OF THE POLITICAL REFORMS. IT  
IS OUR VIEW THAT DEMOCRATIC REFORM, POLITICAL, AND  
ECONOMIC SHOULD PROCEED APACE...

3. QUESTION: IF WE COULD SWITCH REGIONS OF THE WORLD  
FOR A MOMENT. WHO'S IN CHARGE IN CHINA?

SECRETARY BAKER: WELL, LET ME SUGGEST TO YOU THAT WE  
HAVE SEEN VARIOUS REPORTS ABOUT WHO'S IN CHARGE. I  
THINK IT'S TOO SOON, AND THE SITUATION IS TOO CLOUDED  
NOW FOR US TO ANSWER THAT DEFINITELY BY SUGGESTING  
NAMES -- THROWING NAMES OUT THERE FOR YOU.

THE CHINESE THEMSELVES, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, ARE NOT  
SHEDDING A LOT OF LIGHT ON THIS, WHICH I THINK IS  
ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE FACT THAT THERE IS A POWER  
STRUGGLE GOING ON IN CHINA.

4. QUESTION: ARE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS BEING CONSIDERED AS  
A WAY TO BRING PRESSURE ON CHINA, AND CAN YOU RULE OUT  
SPECIFICALLY THE USE OF A GRAIN EMBARGO?

SECRETARY BAKER: WELL, THE PRESIDENT, IN ANNOUNCING THE  
ACTION THAT HE TOOK SEVERAL DAYS AGO WITH RESPECT TO  
MILITARY SALES AND THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN  
MILITARY ADVISERS, SAID THAT HE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO  
REVIEW ALL OPTIONS AS THE SITUATION WARRANTS. FOR THE  
TIME BEING, HE WAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT  
WE MAINTAIN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS THAT EXIST NOW.

IN LARGE PART, I SAID A MOMENT AGO THAT I THOUGHT THE  
REFORM PROCESS IN CHINA, THE ECONOMIC PART, GOT OUT A  
LITTLE AHEAD OF THE POLITICAL PART. BUT IN LARGE PART,  
THOSE ECONOMIC REFORMS ARE WHAT HAVE LED TO THE OPENING  
UP THAT WE SAW BEFORE THIS RECENT TRAGIC AND UNFORTUNATE  
AND DEPLORABLE CRACKDOWN.

SO, WE THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN, IF WE CAN  
-- DEPENDING UPON WHAT HAPPENS AND DEPENDING UPON THE  
FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS THERE -- THAT WE MAINTAIN THESE  
ECONOMIC TIES, BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT FOR THE  
MOST PART HAVE LED TO A MOVE TOWARD OPENNESS IN THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. BUT THE PRESIDENT DOES  
RESERVE HIS OPTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALL THESE MATTERS.

5. QUESTION: IF, AS IT NOW APPEARS, THE MAROLIMERS ARE  
TAKING CHARGE IN BEIJING, WILL YOU HAND BACK MR. FANG,  
THE DISSIDENT NOW IN THE U.S. EMBASSY, IF ASKED TO DO SO?

SECRETARY BAKER: MR. FANG IS IN THE EMBASSY WHERE HE  
TOOK REFUGE FOR PERSONAL SAFETY REASONS. WE NEVER  
DISCUSS QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE ISSUE OF ASYLUM, AND I  
WILL NOT DISCUSS THAT NOW. LET ME SIMPLY SAY THAT HE  
ASKED FOR REFUGE IN OUR EMBASSY AND WE GRANTED THAT  
REFUGE. WE WILL BE MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY HIS WISHES IN  
THIS REGARD.

6. QUESTION: IN RETROSPECT, WAS THE U.S. EMBASSY IN  
BEIJING SLOW IN BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF EVACUATING  
AMERICANS FROM BEIJING AND OTHER PARTS OF CHINA?

SECRETARY BAKER: NO, I REALLY DON'T THINK SO. I THINK,  
FRANKLY, THAT WE WERE RIGHT ON THE MARK, IF I MIGHT  
SUGGEST SO. I'VE SEEN SOME COMMENT TO THE CONTRARY. WE  
HAVE HAD A WORKING GROUP MONITORING THIS SITUATION SINCE  
THE 19TH OF MAY ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. WE HAVE BEEN  
FOLLOWING IT VERY, VERY CLOSELY. I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING  
IT PERSONALLY VERY CLOSELY FOR THE PAST WEEK, OR SINCE  
LAST SATURDAY MORNING, IN ANY EVENT, WHEN THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES BEGAN TO GO IN THE DIRECTION THEY WERE  
MOVING IN.

I HAVE BEEN IN VERY FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT  
BY TELEPHONE AND IN PERSON ON EACH DAY SINCE THEN. OUR  
EMBASSY HAS -- WHEN THE VIOLENCE BEGAN TO ERUPT ON  
SATURDAY, OUR EMBASSY SENT SOME OF OUR OFFICERS AT SOME  
PERSONAL RISK TO THESE DIPLOMATS, IF I MIGHT SAY SO,  
INTO THE SQUARE TO ADVISE AMERICANS TO LEAVE. WE SENT  
THEM TO THE CAMPUSES AND INTO TOWN TO SUGGEST THAT THEY  
GIVE CONSIDERATION TO LEAVING.

WE HAVE PROVIDED FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION THROUGH CONTACT

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